T/SOR/22/2/4

"Faslane Come All Ye"

International Polaris Action

June 21st--26th 1965-Faslane (Scotland)

Scottish Committee of 100,
c/o Munro,
8 Elderslie Street,
GLASGOW, C.3.

In one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland a lethal and highly expensive installation is in the final stages of construction. Yet another addition to the "Welfare State" is rearing its £40,000,000 head in the form of a "British Polaris Base" and "Training Centre" at Faslane. It is located at Gareloch, near the small town of Helensburgh, some 20 miles from Glasgow. On June 26th, 1965 the Scottish Committee of 100 will be attempting an action at Faslane, details of Form and Message are as follows.

Message

Two constructive alternatives will be offered to the 800 workers at Faslane and to the administration which brought the base into being.

1. Alternative employment for one worker will be offered at the "Factory for Peace", Glasgow. The form of "Industrial Democracy" which the "Factory" is experimenting with will be depicted by a film showing it in action. The film show will be followed by discussion, where speakers will put the Anti-War case and the need for individual Industrial Consciousness. It is hoped that people previously employed on War Work will be present to give their reasons for ceasing it and the need for others to do likewise.

2. An Economics Professor is engaged in drafting a technically feasible plan for the conversion of Faslane into an International Oil Terminal. When completed this will be offered to the Government for examination and adoption, as an alternative to the War Effort and a positive contribution to International Co-operation Year.

It is felt that a concrete basis of creative alternatives will give considerable weight and meaning to the final form of the end action.

Form

The following plan of action is at skeleton stage, and will become more concise as the overall position clarifies.

An intensive build up campaign will be initiated at Dumbarton, nearest"Committee" town to Faslane. It is hoped that this job will also be started the length and breadth of Britain, by Committee units and sympathetic C.N.D. groups. A large part of this action will take the form of factory gate meetings at Barrow-on-Furness, Birkenhead, where raw materials for Polaris are made. The demonstration will be advertised as widely as possible on this year's Easter March, by leaflets now being prepared for the purpose.

The "factory For Peace" van will be on the march and serve as a

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focal point for advertisement and distribution. A Folk Song Concert to raise money for the demonstration will be held in London. It is hoped that some of the original "Glasgow Eskimos" of "Ding Dong Dollar" recording fame will be able to perform.

The Scottish T.U.C. and other Organisations within the Labour Movement are to be approached for large scale support, with special reference to proposed factory gate meetings and industrial action.

A fast will be held for the whole week preceding the 26th June, at the entrance of Faslane Base. Past experience has shown that this form of protest can be effective. Banners and leaflets will advertise the "Factory Film Show" and following demonstration. A continuous collection will be taken for the Blind Seamen's Home at Rhu, (a small village near Faslane).

Friday 25th June, 1965

The "Factory" van will tour Faslane in the morning advertising the Film Show to the workers on the site.

Friday Evening - 7.30 p.m.

Film Show will take place in Dumbarton.

Saturday June 26th, 11.30 p.m.

Participants are asked to assemble at Craigendoran Blue Train Station, where we will march 1 mile to Helensburgh. A large open meeting will be held at Helensburgh commencing roughly at 12.00. Invitations to this meeting will be sent to as many unilateralist M.P.'s as possible. The Labour Party especially will be given every opportunity to answer for pre-election promises which have not been fulfilled, and the moral and economic validity of the British Polaris Programme will be put under the spotlight of discussion. We are hoping for as many international participants as possible to stress the fact of nationwide war resistance. Well-known speakers from Overseas are to be invited to put their countries case. March will leave Helensburgh around 1.30 p.m. and proceed 5 miles to Faslane. Form of final action is in several parts. Notice to be given that should conversion plan not be accepted we will attempt to prevent Saturday work from taking place by physically blocking work proceedings for one day. Should overtime be discontinued we formally inspect site, installations etc. to see how suitable the set up is for conversion. Direct action will probably begin around 3.00 p.m. It is hoped that the days of "Non Violent Suicide" are finished. If we can succeed in winning a limited objective such as preventing work on the site on Saturday, good enough. If this can be achieved with minimum arrests and fines, better still. People should be prepared to take the consequences of their actions but this does not mean leaping on to the sacrificial plate of the State.

Saturday

Constructive service by those inclined will be tied in to the main action. The stretch of beach from Helensburgh to Faslane is a rubbish-littered eyesore. The beauty of the surrounding scenery makes this stand out in harsh comparison. While the mess at Faslane is being symbolically cleaned up, teams of people could be "on the beach" literally doing it.

Saturday Evening

For those participants left and we hope there will be many, an Anti-War International Open Forum cum Barbecue Folk Song Concert will be held on the beach at Helensburgh. We think that this will be a fitting climax to the demonstration.

We are hoping that this demonstration will have National and International support and ideas and advice are welcome. Further details will be supplied to you as soon as they are available.

Mark Newns,
Field Secretary.

P.S. To get this demonstration on the road we need cash. If you think it worth supporting and can contribute towards the cost, please send donation to -

c/o Munro,
89 Elderslie Street,
GLASGOW, C.3.